Government to withdraw the central excise duty levy imposed on bicycle and its parts in this year's budget. The issues raised in support of their requests are as follows:

(i) Bicycle parts are reserved for small scale sector. Bicycle parts are mostly manufactured by a small group of people. It is difficult for such SSI units to comply with the excise rules and procedures.

(ii) The bicycle industry caters to the weakest section of the population. This excise duty with its compounding effects, translate into steep price rise of approximately Rs. 100. This price rise is likely to result in shrinkage of demand by 10%.

(iii) This levy will have adverse impact on exports also as the exporter will not be entitlted to get relief of duty paid on sub-contracts.

(iv) The size of domestic sales is Rs. 1850 crores approx. Considering that the small scale units are entitled to SSI exemption, the likely revenue from this sector will be less than Rs. 40 Crores. Considering the employment opportunities generated by this sector as well as the additional burden on 99 crore poor people, the Government may consider withdrawal of central excise duty.

(c) Having regard to the representations and considering that excise at 4% on parts/accessories and again on cycle will lead to cascading, Government has exempted parts and accessories of bicycles from the levy of the central excise duty *w.e.f.* 27.4.2002. Government has not found it feasible to withdraw the 4% duty on bicycles.

I.T. Return of M/S Buildmore India Ltd. and Skipper Corner

*587. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether M/s Buildmore India Limited, Bl-A, Ajit Singh House, Plot No. 12, DDA Commercial Complex, Yusuf Sarai and Skipper Comer, 88 Nehru Place, New Delhi, are regularly filing IT returns and paying taxes;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years;

(c) whether there are large scale discrepancies in their returns as they are fleecing public by getting money from them and promising residential flats but

not a single construction has been made by them nor they are returning money to public; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, the action taken/ proposed against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI G1NGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) M/s Buildmore India Limited had filed its last return of income for assessment year 1998-99 on 8th June, 1999 with the Deputy Commissioner of Income tax, Company Circle 1 (5), New Delhi.

Skipper Comer is the name of a building located at 88, Nehru Place, and the premises of Skipper Comer are sold to and occupied by different persons. Not being as assessable entity, it is not required to file Income tax returns.

(c) No such discrepancies have been found in the returns of income.

(d) Notices for filing of income tax returns for assessment years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 have been issued to M/s Buildmore India Limited. The matter is being pursued by the tax authorities.

Development of tourist circuits

*588. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to develop three tourist circuits through foreign agencies;

(b) if so, what are the names of three circuits and by when the work on their development is likely to commence; and

(c) the work which will be entrusted to foreign agencies?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, during the 10th Five Year Plan the Department of Tourism, Government of India proposes to identify six travel circuits in the country on annual basis and develop them to international standards. During the Annual Plan 2002-03, an amount of Rs. 41.50 crores has been earmarked for the integrated development of six circuits. These circuits are to be finalised and developed in close coordination and partnership with the State/UT Governments.